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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: KCX-332 (15927)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

T.A.
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#15/letter

In re Application of: Allan F. Willis, et al.

Examiner: Roz Ghafoorian

Serial No.: 09/741,730

Art Unit: 3763

Filed: December 19, 2000

Our Account No.: 04-1403

Confirmation No.: 5590

For: SEALING VALVE ASSEMBLY FOR
MEDICAL PRODUCTS

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COMMUNICATION

Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following Communication concerns the Amendment and the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on April 16, 2003. A minor clerical error was present in the Amendment submitted April 16, 2003. Specifically, on page nine of the Amendment, a return was inadvertently entered between the "l" and "e" in the word "least" in the last paragraph of the first claim. Applicants are enclosing a corrected page nine that does not have this typographical error. Applicants are submitting the present Communication in order to ensure that no confusion exists in regards to the typographical error in the Amendment.

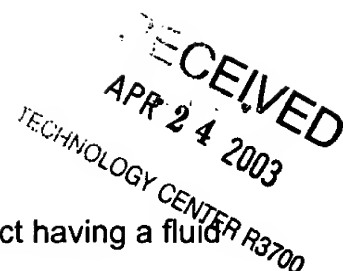
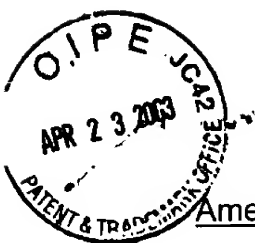
The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at her convenience should she have any questions regarding this matter or require any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amended Claims for U.S. Serial No.09/741,730 KCX-322 (KC #15927)

1. (Amended) A valve assembly for use in a medical product having a fluid path, the valve assembly configured to selectively pass fluids in one direction along the fluid path and to prevent backflow in the opposite direction along the fluid path, the valve assembly comprising:

a valve housing defining an opening having a central axis, the opening extending through the valve housing such that the opening forms part of the fluid path through the medical product;

a valve member disposed within the opening, the valve member having a single seal interface defined by at least two opposing flexible walls biased towards each other to a sealing position, the valve member having a peripheral portion with the opposing flexible walls extending from the peripheral portion toward the central axis, the opposing flexible walls including ends that contact each other along the single seal interface; and

the valve member formed at least in part by a material having a durometer of less than about [20] 12 Shore.

3. (Amended) The valve assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the valve member material has a durometer of about 8 to [15] less than about 12 Shore.

6. (Amended) A medical product defining a fluid path, the medical product comprising a valve

assembly disposed in the path, the valve assembly comprising:

a valve housing defining an opening having a central axis, the opening extending through the valve housing such that the opening forms part of the fluid path through the medical product;